Human Development Report

3166. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the latest Human Development Report, 23 per cent of India's population in undernourished, 47 per cent of children under five are under weight and 46 per cent are under-height;

(b) if so, the States in which these problems are serious; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States which have highest prevalence of under-nutrition are Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to improve the health and nutritional status of people in the country:

— Increased Agricultural Production.

— Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.

— Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System.

— Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.

— Supplementary feeding programmes such as :
  (i) Integerated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).
  (ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP).
  (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP).
  (iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme.
  (v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojana (PMGY).
  (vi) Mid-day Meal Programme.

— Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as ;
  (a) National iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.
  (b) Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.
  (c) Pilot Project for control of Micro-nutrient Malnutrition.